

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

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1. (Currently Amended) A process for the manufacturing of a decorative surface element, which element comprises a base layer and a decorative upper surface, the process comprising:

- i) providing the decorative upper surface with a decor layer, the decor layer comprising a pattern;
- ii) printing a wetting repellent lacquer in a predetermined pattern on the decorative upper surface, at least partially matching the pattern on the decor layer, the wetting repellent covering only part of the decorative upper surface, ~~and~~ thereafter
- iii) applying a wear layer of a UV or electron beam curing lacquer on top of the decorative upper surface, which UV or electron beam curing lacquer is repelled from the part of the surface being covered by the wetting repellent lacquer whereby a surface feature is achieved;
- iv) sprinkling hard particles on the surface element;
- v) curing the wear layer; and
- vi) removing a portion of the hard particles by applying a high pressure air stream.

2. (Previously Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein said UV or electron beam curing lacquer consists of one selected from the group consisting of an acrylic, epoxy and a maleimide lacquer.

3. (Previously Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the applying step comprises multiple applications of the wear layer with intermediate partial curing between each of the multiple applications.

4. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein ~~the wear layer~~ includes hard particles having a hardness greater than the hardness of the cured wear layer and with an average particle size in the range of 50 nm - 150  $\mu$ m.

5. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 4, wherein the hard particles comprise at least one selected from the group consisting of diamond, silicon oxide,  $\alpha$ -aluminum oxide and silicon carbide and mixtures thereof.

6. (Previously Amended) A process according to claim 4, wherein a first amount of the hard particles consist of one selected from the group consisting of silicon oxide,  $\alpha$ -aluminum oxide and silicon carbide, while a smaller amount of the hard particles consist of diamond.

7. (Previously Amended) A process according to claim 6, wherein the hard particles consist of diamond, having an average particle size in the range of 50 nm - 2  $\mu$ m, and are placed close to the upper surface of the wear layer, such that the hard particles provide the wear layer with abrasion resistance.

8. (Previously Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the wetting repellent lacquer comprises a UV or electron beam curing lacquer and a silicone polymer.

9. (Previously Amended) A process according to claim 8, wherein the wetting repellent lacquer comprises UV or electron beam curing acrylic, epoxy or a maleimide lacquer.

10. (Previously Amended) A process according to claim 8, wherein the wetting repellent lacquer is translucent.

11. (Previously Amended) A process according to claim 8, wherein the wetting repellent lacquer is translucent in at least one part and transparent or opaque in at least one other part.

12. (Previously Amended) A process according to claim 11, wherein the wetting repellent lacquer comprises a matting agent, whereby the matting agent creates a structure enhancing shadow effect.

13. (Previously Amended) A process according to claim 11, wherein the wetting repellent lacquer includes a matting agent, whereby the matting agent creates a structure enhancing effect.

14. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 8, wherein the wetting repellent lacquer is cured before the step where the wear layer is applied.

15. (Previously Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the decor layer is produced from a digitally stored original, that the digitally stored original is processed in order to achieve a digital structure original whereby a surface structure that matches the decor is achieved through one or more processes selected from the group consisting of printing, embossing, molding, and rolling of at least a portion of the digital structure original.

16. (Previously Amended) A process according to claim 8, wherein the printing comprises applying the wetting repellent lacquer by means of an ink-jet printer.

17. (Previously Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the base layer consists of a particle board or a fibre board.

18. (Previously Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the base layer comprises a polymer.

19. (Previously Added) A process according to claim 1, wherein, the decor layer is formed by a process comprising processing a digitally stored image.

20. (Previously Added) A process according to claim 19, wherein the digitally stored image resembles a structure selected from the group consisting of wood and minerals.

21. (Previously Added) A process according to claim 19, wherein the processing comprises editing the digitally stored image by at least one selected from the group consisting of digitizing a number of wood grains, scanning a desired pattern, changing color tones, adjusting contrast, dividing the image into smaller images and adding other decorative elements.

22. (Previously Added) A process according to claim 19, wherein the digitally stored image comprises dark sections and light sections and the printing comprises depositing the wetting repellent lacquer on the dark sections.

23. (Previously Added) A process according to claim 1, wherein the decor layer comprises a wood pattern, comprising one or more selected from the group consisting of knots, cracks, flaws and grains.

24. (Previously Added) A process according to claim 23, wherein said printing comprises applying the wetting repellent lacquer in a configuration identical to the pattern in the decor layer.

25. (Previously Amended) A process according to claim 3, wherein said printing comprises applying the wetting repellent lacquer in a configuration to enhance the pattern.

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28. (Currently Amended) A process for process for the manufacturing of a decorative surface element comprising:

applying a primer to a panel to form a primed panel;

providing a decor layer on the primer, the decor layer comprising a pattern;

printing wetting repellent lacquer on parts of the primed panel, matching the decor layer;

placing a layer of UV or electron curing lacquer on the wetting repellent lacquer, whereby the UV or electron beam curing lacquer is repelled from the parts of the primed panel where the wetting repellent lacquer has been printed; and

sprinkling hard particles on the surface element;

curing the UV or electron curing lacquer; and

removing a portion of the hard particles by applying a high pressure air stream.

29. (New) A process according to claim 1, further comprising repeating each of steps iii through vi, at least one time, in sequence, to achieve a plurality of cured layers comprising hard particles.

30. (New) A process for the manufacturing of a decorative surface element, which element comprises a base layer and a decorative upper surface, the process comprising,

- i) selecting a digitized design at a first location;
- ii) transmitting the digitized design to a second location, remote from the first location;
- iii) providing the decorative upper surface with a decor layer, the decor layer comprising a pattern, the pattern being derived from the digitized design;
- iv) printing a wetting repellent lacquer in a predetermined pattern on the decorative upper surface, at least partially matching the pattern on the decor layer, the wetting repellent covering only part of the decorative upper surface, and thereafter
- v) applying a wear layer of a UV or electron beam curing lacquer on top of the decorative upper surface, which UV or electron beam curing lacquer is repelled from the part of the surface being covered by the wetting repellent lacquer whereby a surface feature is achieved.

31. (New) A process according to claim 30, wherein the transmitting comprises sending the digitized design via a computer network.

32. (New) A process according to claim 31, wherein the computer network is the Internet.

33. (New) A process according to claim 30, wherein the digitized design is selected from a database of selectable designs.

34. (New) A process according to claim 30, further comprising digitizing an image to achieve the design.

35. (New) A process for the manufacturing of a decorative surface, which surface comprises a plurality of surface elements, each surface element comprising a base layer and a decorative upper surface having a surface area, the process comprising,

- i) selecting a design at a first location, wherein the design has a size larger than the surface area of each surface element;
- ii) dividing the design into a plurality of segments, each segment having a surface area corresponding to the surface area of one of the surface elements;
- iii) providing the decorative upper surfaces with decor layers, the decor layers each comprising one segment of the design, such that when the surface elements are installed, the design is reproduced across the plurality of surface elements.

36. (New) A process according to claim 35, further comprising;

- iv) printing a wetting repellant lacquer in a predetermined pattern on the decorative upper surfaces, at least partially matching the segments on the decor layers, the wetting repellant covering only part of the decorative upper surface, and thereafter

- v) applying a wear layer of a UV or electron beam curing lacquer on top of the decorative upper surfaces, which UV or electron beam curing lacquer is repelled from the part of the surface being covered by the wetting repellant lacquer whereby a surface feature is achieved.

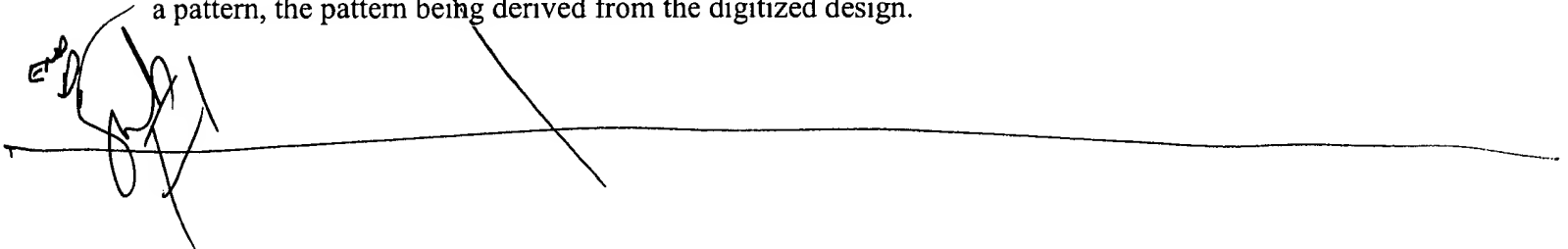
37. (New) A process according to claim 35, further comprising:

- iv) providing each surface element with at least one of a matching line and a unique identification to assist in installation.

38. (New) A process for the manufacturing of a decorative surface element, which element comprises a base layer and a decorative upper surface, the process comprising,

- i) selecting a digitized design at a first location;
- ii) transmitting the digitized design via the Internet to a second location; and
- iii) providing the decorative upper surface with a decor layer, the decor layer comprising

a pattern, the pattern being derived from the digitized design.

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